

## SEPTEMBER 2009 PRESS RELEASES

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Posted by: [DHS]

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### **Protect Yourself and Hoosier Forests by Following These Campfire Safety Tips**

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INDIANAPOLIS (9/4/2009 1:16 PM) Campfires are the nation's leading cause of children's camping injuries, and the primary catalyst for damaging forest fires. Indiana State Fire Marshal, James Greeson warns "It is important that all fires are extinguished properly and there is parental supervision around fires for children of all ages."

Campfire building may be safely undertaken if you practice proper burning techniques and safety measures to protect yourself and Indiana forests.

Below are a few basic fire safety tips from the Fire Marshal's Office, a division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS), and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

#### Prepare your fire site

- Check the weather forecast. Weather fluctuations, such as sudden gusts of wind, could make debris burning spark a wildfire.
- At Indiana state park, state reservoir and state forest facilities, campfires are allowed only in designated areas, such as campfire rings and fire pits.
- A safe burning site will be far away from power lines, overhanging limbs, buildings, automobiles, equipment, rotten stumps, shrubs, dry grass and leaves. The fire will have a vertical clearance at least three times the height of the pile, as heat from the fire extends far past the actual flames that you see.
- The ground around the fire or burn site should be surrounded by gravel or mineral soil (dirt) for at least ten feet in all directions. Keep the surrounding area watered down during the burn.
- Keep the fire in a contained unit such as a burn barrel, BBQ unit, hibachi or a small pit with rocks around it. Building a fire directly on the ground can allow the fire to spread underground through root systems or decaying material.

#### Safely start the fire

- When building a fire, start with dry twigs and small sticks. Add larger sticks as the fire builds up. Put the largest pieces of wood on last, pointing them toward the center of the fire, and gradually push them into the flames.
- Never use flammable liquids to ignite or keep your fire burning. This means, avoid gasoline, diesel fuel, lighter fluid and other dangerous fuels.
- After lighting the fire do not discard the match until it is cold. Douse it with water to be

sure.

- Keep campfires small and do not let them get out of hand. The suggested size is 2', X2', X2'.
- Stack extra firewood upwind and away from the fire.

#### Stay safe around fires

- Do not allow children and pets near the campfire and never leave them unsupervised.
- Teach kids how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. Have a fire extinguisher on hand for emergencies and teach children how to use it.
- Keep plenty of water nearby and have a shovel for throwing sand on the fire if it gets out of control.
- Never leave a campfire unattended. Even a small breeze could quickly cause the fire to spread. Remain with your fire until it is completely out.
- When extinguishing the fire, drown it with water. Make sure all embers, coals, and sticks are wet. Move rocks, as there may be burning embers underneath. Stir the remains, add more water, and stir again.
- If you do not have water, use dirt. Mix plenty of soil and sand with the embers. Continue adding and stirring until all material is cooled.
- Do not bury your coals, they can smolder and start to burn again.

#### Protect Indiana trees

- The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an insect responsible for killing 25 million ash trees in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. You can help prevent the spread of invasive pathogens and insect species by using local firewood for campfires.
- All hardwood firewood from Ohio, Michigan, Illinois and EAB quarantined counties in Indiana and Pennsylvania is banned from Indiana state park, state reservoir, and state forest campgrounds. Banned firewood will be confiscated by gate attendants, so you should find out if your county is quarantined for EAB before you leave on your camping trip. Visit <http://www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo> and see the overview map of all quarantined sites in Indiana. (Map accurate as of May 2009).
- Bundled firewood purchased at a commercial store that bears a USDA stamp or Indiana State Label indicating the firewood vendor has a federal or state compliance agreement, can be brought into state facilities.
- Never leave unused firewood behind at the campfire site.

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For immediate release: Sep 08, 2009

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## **SBA grants Governor's request for Porter County disaster loans**

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### **Adjacent counties of Jasper, LaPorte, Lake and Starke also included**

INDIANAPOLIS – Governor Mitch Daniels today received word that the U.S. Small Business Administration has granted his request for an SBA disaster declaration for Porter County residents and businesses affected by the severe storms and tornadoes in August 19.

The declaration also covers the adjacent counties of Jasper, LaPorte, Lake and Starke.

Loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. For small businesses and most private non-profit organizations of all sizes, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. EIDL assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

Businesses and non-profit organizations of any size may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets. The SBA also provides mitigation funds to disaster victims based on 20 percent of the verified physical damage. These funds are designed to help borrowers pay for protective measures to minimize damages of the same kind in the future.

SBA's customer service representatives will be on hand at the Disaster Loan Outreach Center in Chesterton to issue loan applications, answer questions about the SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help individuals complete their applications.

The center will be located in the following community and will open as indicated:

Porter County  
Chesterton Town Hall  
726 Broadway  
Chesterton, Indiana 46304

Open: Thursday, September 10 - Thursday, September 17, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm  
Saturday, September 12, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, (closed Sunday, Sept 13)

Closing: Thursday, September 17 at close of business

Interest rates are as low as 2.75 percent for homeowners and renters, and 4 percent for businesses, with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Individuals and businesses unable to visit the Chesterton center in person may obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EDT or by sending an email to [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov). Business loan applications can also be downloaded from the SBA website at [www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance](http://www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance). Completed applications should be returned to the Center or mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

Victims may apply for disaster loans from SBA's secure website at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is November 3, 2009.

The deadline to return economic injury applications is June 4, 2010

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## **Indiana Emergency Response Conference Award Recipients**

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INDIANAPOLIS (9/8/2009 8:32 AM) The Indiana Emergency Response Conference brought together members from the Indiana Fire Chief's Association, Fire Fighter, Volunteer Fire Fighter and Fire Instructors Associations, the International Association of Fire Investigators of Indiana, as well as the Indiana Emergency Medical Services Commission, the Indiana Ambulance Association, the Hazardous Materials Alliance, and the Fire and Building Safety Division of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Twenty-three distinct awards were given to disserving individuals in the Indiana emergency response community. The following award recipients are to be congratulated for their hard work, dedication and outstanding service and leadership in emergency response. For photographs of recipients, please contact Howard Buchannan at [hbuchano@southbend.in.gov](mailto:hbuchano@southbend.in.gov), 574-235-7553.

### **WINNERS 2009**

#### **PHOTOGRAPH OF THE YEAR**

- This year's winning photograph taken by Chris Meyers, Whitley Co. EMS, shows Whitely County paramedics, and Richland Township and Pierceton Firefighters working to extricate a victim from a truck. In the background is the Parkview Samaritan helicopter coming in for a landing. This picture caught the judges' attention because it shows the teamwork between first responders, ambulance personnel, and air

ambulance services necessary at any lengthy extrication. The 2-hour extrication revealed three very fortunate patients who had minor injuries.

#### EMS FOR CHILDREN

- This award recognizes the efforts of EMS personnel in response to, and in support of, emergencies involving children. Geoffrey Crist, Osolo EMS, Elkhart Co. is a paramedic who is known to maintain calm concentration and the ability to perform the necessary skills when responding to pediatric runs. He not only maintains Pediatric Education for Pre-hospital Providers (PEPP) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certifications, but is also an Autism course train-the-trainer. His experiences with his own child with autism give him great insight which he shares with others in EMS to ensure a proper response to pediatric patients in crisis.

#### AMBULANCE PROVIDER PUBLIC RELATION AWARD

- Memorial Hospital Ambulance Service, Jasper, Dubois Co., was selected as this year's winner in recognition of staff efforts to inform the community about the emergency medical services the hospital provides. Personnel make a conscious effort to present information in a variety of ways and to a wide array of age groups in order to encompass all aspects of the population.

#### OTIS R. BOWEN HEROIC RESCUE AWARD

The Otis R. Bowen Heroic Rescue Award is given in recognition of an event that demonstrates a degree of courage and bravery while at the same time showing an understanding of the seriousness of the situation and the risks involved. On March 16, 2009, employees of Knox County EMS, Vincennes, found a pick-up truck stuck on the railroad tracks adjacent to the ambulance station. Smoke from the spinning rear wheels surrounded the truck. The 83-year old driver had lost control of the vehicle after suffering a stroke and his foot was pushing the accelerator to the floor. Hearing the whistle of an approaching train, the employees rushed to the man's aid. Dispatcher Krystle Miller contacted central dispatch in an attempt to stop the train. Paramedic Robin Overton went to the driver's door and after much knocking and yelling was able to get the attention of the man, convince him to lift his foot off of the accelerator and roll down the window. As the train continued its approach, Overton was able to reach inside the vehicle and unlock the doors. Company driver Sue Ballard climbed in the passenger door, slung her leg over the console, and pushed the driver out the driver's door toward Overton. Ballard had to pry the driver's fingers off the steering wheel finger by finger. Overton and drivers Connie Helderman and Sherry Cavender assisted the driver into the office of Knox County EMS. Knowing that the train was fast approaching and that a collision and possible derailment would mean certain damage to nearby homes not to mention the ambulance station, and the possibility of major injury to personnel, Ballard climbed into the driver's seat and slammed the truck into reverse while fellow drivers Greg Aker and Becky McLendon pushed from the front. Not only did the efforts of these heroic rescue award winners extend the life of the patient but it gave a grateful family 3 extra weeks with their loved one.

#### DAVID J. EDWARDS MEMORIAL PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR

- David J. Edwards, a paramedic/firefighter who was also a primary instructor (PI) actively involved in EMS education, was killed while fighting a house fire on February 3, 1988. This award is presented in his honor. Charles B. Sims, Columbus Regional Hospital Ambulance Service, Bartholomew Co. found EMS as a second career after working many years in the automotive industry. He has been certified as a PI since 1988 working part-time for Indiana University and Ivy Tech before becoming a full-time instructor and Program Chair for the Paramedic Service Program at Ivy Tech in Columbus, Indiana. Under his philosophy that “no EMT shall be left behind,” he fulfills his duty to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to be proficient in pre-hospital care. The result of this philosophy is a 98% first attempt pass rate by his students on state certification exams.

#### DISPATCHER OF THE YEAR

- The Dispatcher of the Year Award recognizes the importance of the dispatcher in the delivery of all public safety services and especially in emergency medical service response. There is a saying “Be nice to your dispatcher or he will tell you where to go.” This award winner gives such clear instructions, directions and descriptions of the incident that EMS personnel not only know exactly where to go, but what to expect when they get there. Dispatcher Tyler Clements, Washington County Sheriff’s Department, holds Advanced Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) and telecommunications certifications along with certification from APCO Institute in suicide intervention. In addition to his duties as a 911 dispatcher, Clements is a volunteer firefighter serving as the Safety Officer for his department, a Certified First Responder, a reserve deputy for the county sheriff’s department, and a deputy emergency manager for the county Emergency Management Agency (EMA).

#### EMT-BASIC OF THE YEAR

- John Riggs, Evansville Fire Department, Vanderburgh Co. has served his Basic Life Support (BLS) Non-Transport Department for fifteen years. He acts as the lead instructor for EMS in-service programs and is considered and serves on the department’s hazardous materials team, rope rescue team and confined space rescue team. He is active in the community serving as a co-chair in building two Habitat for Humanity houses and co-chair for his department’s Christmas party for children who otherwise might not have a memorable Christmas. He is also a coach for area football, basketball and soccer teams. He proved his devotion goes beyond his fellow man when he and a partner were lowered into a sewer to successfully rescue eight baby ducks which had fallen through the grate.

#### EMT- BASIC ADVANCED OF THE YEAR

- Several letters of support were received recommending William White, Wells County EMS, as Advanced EMT of the Year, including letters from four different EMS organizations. Each letter stressed Wells’ dependability, knowledge of EMS and trustworthiness. They also showed a dedication to public service: 9 years with the present employer, twenty years with another, currently on a part-time basis, and 30 years with a volunteer fire department. He is an avid hunter who processes his own deer meat and then gives it to families in need of food. He is said to be a leader by

example, compassionate, honest, forthright and one who has the un-teachable spirit of giving your all each and every time.

#### EMT-INTERMEDIATE OF THE YEAR

- Mark A. Humbert with Memorial Hospital Ambulance Service in Jasper, Dubois Co. has been a member of his community's volunteer fire department for twenty-two years and currently serves as the training officer. He is dedicated to instilling his knowledge and skills to the next generation of EMS personnel by holding many instructor certifications. He is an instructor for CPR, Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), an American Heart Train the Trainer, and a Primary Instructor. In addition to working on the ambulance he also serves as the department's maintenance officer and a member of the Ambulance Council which reviews policy and procedures, and interviews and hires new employees. He assisted with the design and creation of the department's Mobile Disaster Command Center and frequently helps out in the emergency department when not on an ambulance run.

#### FRANK D. GILBERT, JR. MEMORIAL PARAMEDIC OF THE YEAR

- The paramedic of the Year is an optimum co-worker, always willing to share knowledge and skill expertise with EMT and First Responder partners. Working for two different provider organizations, he was instrumental in taking his Basic Life Support (BLS) Non-Transport department to the Training Institution level while working full time as a paramedic for the local ambulance service. He is said to be dedicated to his career, his patients, and his co-workers, always putting their needs above his own.
- Jon Christopher Thomas, Trans-care Ambulance Service, Sugar Creek Fire Department, Vigo Co. is an active firefighter, paramedic, PI, training institution EMS coordinator, and holds certifications in hazardous materials and rope rescue.

#### MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

- Michael Kaufmann, MD received nominations from three different provider organizations. He has taken a hands-on approach to medical direction, visiting department stations to speak with EMS personnel, teaching cadaver labs, riding along on EMS runs and working with departments to assess educational needs. In addition to conducting monthly audit and review sessions, he also meets with hospital staff and other physicians to build the relationship between them and EMS personnel, and serves as a mediator when issues develop. Kaufmann is a full time emergency department medical director at a local hospital, and avid runner and cyclist, most recently participating in the Geist Marathon. His current list of sponsoring agencies includes: Zionsville Fire Department in Boone Co., Carmel Fire Department in Hamilton Co., Pike Township Fire Department in Marion Co., Fishers Fire Department in Hamilton Co., and PHI Air Medical, Dove Flight with St. Vincent Health.

#### BLS NON-TRANSPORT PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

- The Evansville Fire Department in Vanderburgh Co. promotes EMS awareness by opening its stations to public tours, attending community public safety events, participating in career days, and being an active participant in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. It assists the local ambulance provider

at many community events which draw large crowds. This organization also supports many local events financially including donations of \$1,500 to the National Night Out, \$500 to a local high school to buy cribs for needy families, \$500 to Easter Seals, and \$20,000 to a fund to build a group home for people with Prader-Willi Syndrome.

#### EMT BASIC PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

- The Pendleton Emergency Ambulance Service, in Madison Co. was founded in 1975 after the local funeral home ceased to provide ambulance coverage. It has become one of the largest volunteer services in its geographical area and strives to provide the best quality of patient care to its patients. It promotes EMS awareness through an EMS Rookie program at the local high school, providing AEDs and training in their use as well as CPR training to the local community, conducting blood pressure checks, and hosting a Public Safety Day for the community. It also participates in the local "Every 15 Minutes" campaign to show the dangers of drinking and driving to students preparing for their high school prom. They are active in disaster planning and response and are working with the local health department to plan for the H1N1 response anticipated to be needed this fall.

#### EMT BASIC-ADVANCED PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

- This provider has served its community for over 50 years as a volunteer EMS organization. The Aurora Emergency Rescue, Inc. in Dearborn Co. conducts many EMS awareness activities including a "Show and Tell" at local schools, station and ambulance tours, CPR courses, and the distribution and promotion of the 'Vial of Life' program. Aurora Emergency Rescue Inc. supports and actively participates in local events and festivals and is a key participant with the County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) in planning for and responding to disasters.

#### EMT INTERMEDIATE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

- This hospital based ambulance service is the only ambulance provider in its county and employs 60 EMS personnel. With less than 24 hour notice Memorial Hospital Ambulance Service in Jasper, Dubois Co. went from covering one-half the county to the entire county when the other ambulance service in the county shut its doors. The department is unique in that it has set a policy for EMS personnel that not only covers professional appearance and performance, but spiritual and moral performance as well.

#### PARAMEDIC PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

- American Medical Response in Evansville, Vanderburgh Co., and in Jasper, Dubois Co. was the first private ambulance service in the nation to receive and implement the Physio Control LifePak 15 Monitor/Defibrillator with an improved 12-lead algorithm. The organization was recently reaccredited through Medical Priority Dispatch Systems and is one of only a few departments in the world to do so. It supports disaster response by maintaining a fully stocked disaster resources trailer and by actively participating in all local disaster planning and training activities. It is a key leader in the District EMS Directors Council, contracts with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide EMS response in national disasters and provides dispatch services for its homeland security task force.

### INDIANA FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- Organized in 1917, the Indiana Firefighters Association is the oldest Fire service organization in the State of Indiana. Their President, Mr. Roger Johnson and his Board of Directors presented Warren “Butch” Krazy, Terre Haute Fire Department, Vigo Co. with a Life Membership for his dedication and outstanding service, and to Father Frank Kilchine, IFA Chaplin, for his dedicated service to the association.

### GOLDEN LIGHT BULB AWARD

- This award was presented by the Fire Chiefs Association (FCA), Public Educator’s Group, and voted for by conference attendees as the favorite or most informative presentation on methods of teaching fire prevention. Elisabeth Gulley from Hancock Co., winner two years running, summarized her efforts with county fire departments to create on-screen fire safety pieces for movie theatres.

### FIRE PREVENTION AWARD

- The Fire Prevention award recognizes an individual or division whose service, professional abilities and leadership have been exemplary in promoting the development of codes and who has served as an example to all fire prevention and fire protection individuals. This year’s recipient is presented to a team of individuals who live by the “prevention” motto every day. They not only investigate fire cause and origin, but they are also extremely active within their community, attending and participating in local homeowner associations. They are also very involved in their local school system and are dedicated to ensuring students can attend school uninterrupted by violence, fire, intimidation, drugs or anything else that would obstruct the educational process. Congratulations to the Pike Township Fire Department in Marion Co.: Fire Marshal Steve Jones, Deputy Fire Marshal Sam Bruner, Inspector Pam Johnson, Inspector Kevin Cleveland and Administrative Assistant Sarah Sterrett.

### TRAINING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- The Fire Training Achievement Award recognizes an individual or division whose contributions to training and education of Indiana’s Fire service has made it more effective, safer and more professional. The contribution may be in the form of specific program development or outstanding commitment to raising the level of knowledge, skills and abilities of firefighters and emergency responders locally, regionally or statewide. Douglas Cox, Division Chief for Auburn Fire Dept. in DeKalb Co. has served as a training officer since 2006. He not only serves his department, but also as a District representative for the Indiana Fire Instructors Association and is the Training Council Chairperson for the district as well. In August of 2006, Governor Daniels named Cox’s department the first State of Indiana Firefighter Training Center.

### PRESIDENTS AWARD

- The most coveted award bestowed upon an individual by the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association was presented to John Buckman III, Indiana Firefighter Training System, IDHS. Buckman is also Fire Chief at German Township Fire Dept., Vanderburgh Co.

#### FIRE CHIEF OF THE YEAR, COMBINATION/VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT

- Following several line-of-duty deaths in Indiana, Bill Newgent, Greencastle Fire Dept., Putnam Co. took significant strides to protect the firefighters within his community by leading the effort to designate structures constructed with engineered truss systems. His leadership on this critical issue sets a standard for the Fire Chiefs throughout not only Indiana, but the program adopted in his city also serves as a model for the American fire service. He identified a significant risk to his personnel and championed a creative response to reduce the possibility of losing one of his firefighters to structures built with engineered lumber systems. He is also very active within the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association and currently is the Chairman of the State of Indiana Memorial Team. He is a Sagamore on the Wabash recipient for his efforts to improve firefighter training in the State of Indiana. His efforts to serve others are tireless and this was ever present when he secured one of the largest Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants ever awarded for improving communications within his county.

#### FIRE CHIEF OF THE YEAR, CAREER DEPARTMENT

- Dale Henson, Decatur Township Fire Dept., Marion Co., a career fire chief since January 1, 1994 served as the volunteer chief two years prior to his hire date. He has served for several terms and is the current president of the Marion County Fire Chiefs Association. His support of Public Fire Education includes in classroom and field trips for preschools—3rd grade and career day events in the high school. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association and has contributed countless hours to educating and maintaining the strong leadership of the organization over the past several years. He has been the Chairman of the Indiana Fire Institute for the last five years and is a past President of the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association. Outside of the department, he has been involved in sports and education. He was the coach for the World Police and Fire Games Men's Softball team where they placed second in the competition. He coached girls' softball at Decatur Central High School and currently does one-on-one coaching. He is the president of the Decatur Township School Board and has been a member since 2007.

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### **Governor requests federal individual and public assistance for 14 Indiana counties from August 4th severe weather**

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INDIANAPOLIS (September 10, 2009) – Governor Mitch Daniels has requested that President Barack Obama grant federal individual and public assistance to 14 counties for damage from severe weather that began August 4.

Individual assistance has been requested for Brown, Clark, Floyd, Franklin, Jackson, Jennings, Marion, Ripley and Rush counties. The governor has requested individual assistance programs including the Individual and Household Program, Disaster Housing, Other Needs Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, and U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Loans.

Public assistance has been requested for Brown, Decatur, Floyd, Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Owen, Parke, Ripley and Switzerland counties. If granted, public assistance means state government and local governments and certain non-profit organizations in these counties would be eligible to apply for federal assistance to pay 75 percent of the approved cost of debris removal, emergency services related to the disaster and repairing or replacing damaged public facilities, such as roads, buildings and electrical cooperatives.

Daniels indicated further damage may be identified and reserved the right to request assistance for additional counties.

The governor is seeking federal assistance following damage that occurred in the southern and central parts of the state from a tornado, severe straight line winds, torrential rains and flooding that swept through the counties beginning Aug. 4. Up to 10 inches of rain fell over a 23-hour period in some locations, quickly leading to severe flooding. The result was damage to many homes and personal property. Repeated disasters over the past year have caused previous hardships to these citizens in addition to this disaster.

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## **DeKalb County to Receive \$494,000 Hazard Mitigation Grant**

INDIANAPOLIS (9/15/2009 12:11 PM) – The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) today received confirmation of a \$494,235 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hazard mitigation grant for the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners to purchase six homes severely damaged by flooding in June 2008.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds help to reduce or eliminate losses from future disasters. The funds may be used to protect property that has been subjected to, or is in danger of, repetitive damage.

“This funding will provide valuable assistance to help remove these Hoosier families from harm’s way,” said IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott. “This kind of project is

the foundation of disaster mitigation efforts and illustrates the importance of local, state and federal governments working together for the benefit of Indiana residents.”

Removing flood-prone structures from private ownership eliminates the threat of future damage, and also eliminates health and safety risks for homeowners and public safety personnel. It also does away with the need for emergency response services, subsidized flood insurance and federal disaster assistance.

The Holiday Lakes project will allow DeKalb County to purchase the homes at pre-flood, fair market value. The county will acquire the homes and demolish them. The land will be re-graded to a natural state and may become residential parks or natural open areas.

The Maumee River Basin Commission (MRBC) prepared the HMGP grant application on behalf of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners and will be responsible for the implementation of the grant. MRBC has committed \$30,000 to assist DeKalb County in meeting the 25% local match requirement of the grant. This project will compliment two earlier projects from IDHS where three homes were purchased in 2001-2003.

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## **FEMA to fund removal of damaged homes in flood prone areas of Martinsville**

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INDIANAPOLIS -- The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) received confirmation of a \$2,983,200 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hazard mitigation grant for the city of Martinsville, Ind., to acquire 32 homes susceptible to flooding.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds help to reduce or eliminate losses from future disasters. The funds may be used to protect property that has been subjected to, or is in danger of, repetitive damage.

“The partnership and teamwork of the city of Martinsville, IDHS and FEMA made these funds available for the project,” said IDHS Executive Director Joseph Wainscott. “This assistance for affected Martinsville homeowners is a key step in continuing disaster recovery and prevention.”

HMGP funds will be used to remove these substantially damaged homes from flood prone areas, returning the area to open space in perpetuity. HMGP projects like this are

the cornerstone of disaster prevention efforts, and illustrate the importance of local, state and federal governments working together for the benefit of citizens.

Removing flood-prone structures from private ownership eliminates the threat of future damage, and also eliminates health and safety risks for homeowners and public safety personnel. It also does away with the need for emergency response services, subsidized flood insurance and federal disaster assistance.

Through HMGP, FEMA will pay 75 percent of the project costs, with the city of Martinsville providing the remaining 25 percent. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security administers this mitigation program.

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## **Federal Emergency Management Agency Denies Disaster Declaration Request**

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INDIANAPOLIS – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator W. Craig Fugate has notified the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) that the request for a major disaster declaration caused by the severe storms and flooding that began on August 4, 2009 was denied.

Individual assistance was requested for Brown, Clark, Floyd, Franklin, Jackson, Jennings, Marion, Ripley and Rush counties. Individual assistance can include grants for housing, possessions, vehicles, counseling, unemployment and U.S. Small Business Administration loans.

Public assistance was requested for Brown, Decatur, Floyd, Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Owen, Parke, Ripley and Switzerland counties. Public assistance means state government and local governments and certain non-profit organizations in these counties would be eligible to apply for federal assistance to pay 75 percent of the approved cost of debris removal, emergency services related to the disaster and repairing or replacing damaged public facilities, such as roads, buildings and electrical cooperatives.

“Repeated disasters over the past year have caused considerable hardships to these citizens in addition to this disaster. I am very disappointed for the individuals impacted by this decision” said IDHS Executive Director, Joe Wainscott. “We know the affected Hoosiers have experienced great suffering. We are committed to seeking additional measures to provide needed support.”

Other avenues of providing assistance include an appeal to FEMA for reconsideration of the disaster declaration, Small Business Administration (SBA) loan assistance and possible relief through the state disaster fund. "IDHS will continue to support these communities in any way we can." Wainscott said.

Federal assistance was requested on September 10 following damage that occurred in the southern and central parts of the state from a tornado, severe straight line winds, torrential rains and flooding that swept through the counties beginning Aug. 4. Up to 10 inches of rain fell over a 23-hour period in some locations, quickly leading to severe flooding. The result was damage to many homes and personal property.

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## **City of Franklin Receives More Than a \$4.9 Million FEMA Grant**

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### **75 flood-prone homes to be acquired and removed to prevent future flooding losses**

CHICAGO – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) have announced the release of \$4,920,291 in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds to the city of Franklin, Ind., for the acquisition of up to 75 homes susceptible to annual flooding.

FEMA will fund 75 percent of the project costs through HMGP funds. The city of Franklin will provide the 25 percent local government share of \$1,640,097 for this project through an Indiana Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security administers this mitigation program.

"This project will ensure the health, safety and welfare of Franklin residents who lived in these homes," said Janet M. Odeshoo, acting regional administrator, FEMA Region V. "The acquisition will help prevent future structural losses, emergency repair costs and the financial obligations of federal, state and local governments."

"Indiana continues to recover from the long-term effects of the 2008 flooding. This assistance is a key step for those who had their homes damaged or destroyed. It's

important for their and the community's recovery," said IDHS Executive Director Joseph Wainscott. "The partnership and teamwork among the city of Franklin, IDHS and FEMA helped provide this much needed relief."

"We are very excited to reach this milestone," said Franklin Mayor Fred Paris. "My admiration goes out to the residents who are part of this buyout. Recovering from a disaster is not easy, but because of the patience, dedication and hard work of everyone involved, we will all soon be able to close this chapter of our lives together."

HMGP funds will be used to remove these substantially damaged homes from flood prone areas, returning the area to open space in perpetuity. HMGP projects like this are the cornerstone of disaster prevention efforts, and illustrate the importance of local, state and federal government working together for the benefit of citizens.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

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For immediate release: Sep 25, 2009

Posted by: [DHS]

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## **IDHS gathering information for appeal**

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### **Hoosiers with severe weather damage urged to report**

INDIANAPOLIS: The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) urges anyone who sustained damage caused by severe weather, including wind and flooding during August 4 through August 9 and has not yet reported it or if you have discovered additional damage that was not previously reported to do so online. The counties include: Brown, Clark, Floyd, Franklin, Jackson, Jennings, Marion, Ripley and Rush.

IDHS will be accepting additional damage reports on its website at [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs) until Wednesday, September 30, 2009. Those reporting will be asked to provide their name, address, phone number, damage to property and type of damage the property sustained. Losses can include structural damage to homes and loss of personal property.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator W. Craig Fugate notified IDHS Thursday that the request for a major disaster declaration caused by the storms and flooding was denied.

"We know the affected Hoosiers have experienced great suffering," said Joe Wainscott, executive director of IDHS. "We are committed to seeking additional measures to provide needed support."

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For immediate release: Sep 28, 2009

Posted by: [DHS]

Contact: Special Agent Kim Riddell, ATF PIO; Rachel Meyer, IDHS PIO

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## **Fire at Little Nashville Opry was intentionally set**

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Nashville, In. – The National Response Team (NRT) from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), ATF Columbus Field Division, Indiana Department of Homeland Security's State Fire Marshal, Brown County Sheriff's Office and Brown County Volunteer Fire Department investigators completed the on-scene investigation into the cause of the Sep. 19th blaze at the Little Nashville Opry located in Nashville.

Christopher P. Sadowski, Special Agent in Charge, ATF Columbus Field Division; Jim Greeson, Indiana Fire Marshal; Robert Stogsdill, Brown County Sheriff; Dallas A. Kelp, Chief Brown County Volunteer Fire Department announced that the blaze was ruled arson. Specific information regarding the fire and investigation will not be released as the investigation into the criminal act is continuing.

The team of investigators have taken photographs, recovered potential evidence from the scene for laboratory analysis and conducted over 40 interviews throughout the community. The ATF National Response Team will depart Nashville today.

"The ATF National Laboratory will analyze the fire debris and evidence to assist in determining the cause of the fire. An ATF Special Agent Certified Fire Investigator based in Indianapolis, along with Indianapolis ATF agents, will continue to work together with local investigators to investigate this crime," said Sadowski.

"Intentionally set fires are a serious crime that can put innocent citizens and rescue personnel at great risk," said Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. "I commend the agencies involved who have worked this case, and urge citizens to report any suspicions or information regarding the Little Nashville Opry Fire so we can hold criminals accountable for their violent and costly actions."

Anyone with information about the fire should call the Sheriff's Office Tip Line 812-988-6620. All calls will be kept confidential.

ATF's NRT, comprising ATF personnel from across the country, responded to the scene to work alongside state and local investigators. The NRT's specialized resources include a canine team, certified fire investigators, forensic chemist, electrical and fire protection engineers, and additional specialists. This NRT activation was the 23rd this fiscal year and 681nd since the 1978 inception of the NRT program.

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For immediate release: Sep 29, 2009  
Posted by: [DHS]  
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Email: [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov)

## **Phone Line Open for Hoosiers to Report Damage from August 4th - 9th Severe Weather**

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INDIANAPOLIS: A toll-free number is open for Hoosiers who sustained damage caused by severe weather, including wind and flooding August 4 - 9, 2009, to call and report damage.

The number (866-210-1925) is staffed from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. EST through Wednesday, September 30, 2009. Damage reports also may be made online via the Indiana Department of Homeland Security website at [www.in.gov/dhs](http://www.in.gov/dhs).

Those reporting will be asked to provide their name, address, phone number, damage to property and type of damage the property sustained. Losses can include structural damage to homes and loss of personal property. The information will be used to craft the state's appeal.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator W. Craig Fugate notified IDHS Thursday, September, 24 that the request for a major disaster declaration caused by the storms and flooding was denied.

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For immediate release: Sep 29, 2009  
Posted by: [DHS]  
Contact: John Erickson or Rachel Meyer  
Phone: (317) 234-6713  
Email: [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov)

## **Arson hotline available for those with information on Little Nashville Opry fire**

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INDIANAPOLIS: The Indiana Department of Homeland Security has opened its Arson Hotline (800-382-4628) in addition to the Brown County Sheriff's Office tip-line (812-988-6620). Those with information on the fire at the Little Nashville Opry on September 19 are encouraged to call either line.

Callers who provide information leading to the arrest of the person(s) responsible for the Opry fire via the IDHS Arson Hotline number can receive a reward of up to \$5,000.

"Intentionally set fires are a serious crime that can put innocent citizens and rescue personnel at great risk," said Indiana State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. "I urge citizens to report any suspicions or information regarding the Little Nashville Opry Fire so we can hold criminals accountable for their violent and costly actions."

All calls made to either line will be kept confidential

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For immediate release: Sep 30, 2009

Posted by: [DHS]

Contact: John Erickson or Rachel Meyer

Phone: (317) 234-6713

Email: [pio@dhs.in.gov](mailto:pio@dhs.in.gov)

## **NORAD Fighters respond to derelict aircraft**

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### **small private plane has crashed in Randolph County, Indiana**

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — A Mooney, single engine aircraft has been intercepted by two F-16 fighters under the direction of North American Aerospace Defense Command near Muncie, Ind. today at approximately 10 a.m. EDT.

F-16 aircraft from the Indiana Air National Guard are escorting the aircraft that has not responded to radio calls and the pilot of the aircraft appears to be unresponsive.

The civilian aircraft departed Grand Rapids, Mich. on a post-maintenance flight and lost communications with ground air traffic controllers. The F-16 pilots intercepting the aircraft reported the pilot is unresponsive. The aircraft is not believed to be part of any terrorist activity.

The plane is currently under escort by two F-16s and is flying generally south 60 miles

northeast of Indianapolis and may be losing altitude.

The intent of military intercepts is to have the identified aircraft re-establish communications with local FAA air traffic controllers and instruct the pilot to follow air traffic controllers to land safely for further follow-on action.

NORAD's mission – in close collaboration with homeland defense, security, and law enforcement partners – is to prevent air attacks against North America, safeguard the sovereign airspaces of the United States and Canada by responding to unknown, unwanted and unauthorized air activity approaching and operating within these airspaces, and provide aerospace and maritime warning for North America. NORAD may be required to monitor, shadow, divert from flight path, direct to land and/or destroy platforms deemed a potential threat to North America.

NORAD is the bi-national Canadian and American command that is responsible for the air defense of North America and maritime warning. The command has three subordinate regional headquarters: the Alaskan NORAD Region at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska; the Canadian NORAD Region at Winnipeg, Manitoba; and the Continental NORAD Region at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. The command is poised both tactically and strategically in our nation's capital to provide a multilayered defense to detect, deter and prevent potential threats flying over the airspace of the United States and Canada.

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